Boston, Jan. 18, 1846.

Dear friend Caroline:

You perhaps remember a slave-boy Martin, who was thrown upon my care a year or two since. After being some time at my house, a Mr. G. Soward of the Hopedale Community proposed ~~to~~ to adopt him, & make him a member of their association. To this I acceded very gladly. Soon after, Mr. S. who is an Englishman, was obliged to cross the Atlantic, but said he should return in two or three months at furthest, & would take Martin on his return. Thinking the opportunity too good to be lost for any inferior consideration, I bounded & sent him to school in Boston. Soward was gone much longer than he expected - six months I ~~suppose~~ think. At last he returned, & last Summer, Martin went to Hopedale.

Six or eight weeks since, Mr. Soward writes me with much regret that the members of the Community think Martin exerts an unfavorable influence & sets a bad example to their children - that they are unwilling he should remain there

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longer. Mr. S. himself thinks that Martin's residence in Boston among the colored people was injurious to him" &c. and that it is impossible for him to keep him.

Mrs Lowig made some efforts at the time of the Fair, to learn some favorable & suitable situation for him, — but we are nearly convinced that this is a fruitless undertaking. The difficulty is that from the intimations given by Mr Sowand, I fear his moral habits are in some way injured, & without receiving a satisfactory character of him in this respect, no good family would be willing to receive him.

He is now about 13 years old; decidedly intelligent & sufficiently docile. Not tall, but very thick & strong. I have no doubt he could do the work of a man, & that is just what he needs. The child of field slaves, & himself exposed to the sights & sounds of a plantation it is no wonder

his physical nature is predominant. What he wants is plenty of work & a just but strict superintendence. With this, he would be happy & I doubt not useful, - for the boy is generous & good tempered.

Now, my dear Caroline, excuse this long preamble. It is the preface to a request I have to make of you. I want you to do me the great favor to ascertain whether I can get Martin a situation as seaman's apprentice, or the like, on board some whaling or other vessel belonging to New Bedford. I am under the impression that there is a steady demand for men & boys for whaling voyages in N.B. - I know the perils, physical & moral, of a sailor's life; but, after all, it seems my only resource for him. He will soon be beyond my control, if I do not settle him at once, & will be ruined.

There is a colored man Robinson in N.B. who keeps a grocery or some kind of store. I have done him some slight business favors, & I do not doubt he would exert him-

self in the way of enquiry, at least, if you could see him. look over

I do not like to trouble you about this, but I am in a strait: and I apply to you on the principle that when you want a thing done at once, you must apply to the person of your acquaintance who has most to do. It would be not only painful but mortifying to me to have Martin turn out ill. I think some decided course should be taken with him, before a return to Boston should confirm any wrong tendencies. I do not judge from Mr Sowood's letter that the cause of complaint is any thing very serious now - but I think it should be treated at once.

If no opportunity should at once offer is there any coloured family in N. B. who would board him awhile, on being suitably paid? I should not wish to place him any where, where there would not be a pretty firm will, & a firm arm if necessary [!] to control him.

With the truest regard & respect, Yrs.
Ellis Gray Loring.

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